

in danger. Governors, mayors, and legislative bodies can carve up pension benefits even faster than the private sector if working families and their representatives do not remain vigilant and stand up against these attempts.

Ten days in jail they have ordered for Roger Toussaint. Two and a half million dollars they have fined the TW Local 100 organization. Dues check-off privileges have been taken away. The Governor and his MTA puppet board are trying to destroy the union that stood up and exposed the plot to swindle the workers out of their pension benefits. They want to destroy Roger Toussaint, the labor rebel. They want to smother the union rebellion.

Roger Toussaint should not remain an unsung hero. Now is the time for all working families to come to the aid of an heroic labor leader. Listen to the final words of Roger Toussaint at the door of the jail: "I stand here today because a judge has found me guilty of contempt of court. The truth of the matter is I have nothing but contempt for a system that gives employers free rein to abuse workers."

Now is the time for all labor organizations across the country to come to the aid of TW and Roger Toussaint in New York.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE PEOPLE OF BELARUS

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the Special Order time of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I was fortunate to be part of a foreign observer team to observe the failed Presidential elections in Belarus on March 19. Why was it a failure? One, because about 400 political activists were arrested prior to the election. There was prevailing that no one could account for and credit as being valid. I attended with a colleague of mine from Portugal, a member of Parliament, Suarez, and at the end of the evening after visiting 19 precincts, we were not allowed to see the ballots, nor were we allowed to observe the counting of the ballots. There was also no ability for the opposition candidates to campaign and get time on the state-sponsored TV station.

Why is this important, and why do I bring this up today? Well, after the

election there was a rally in Oktyabrskaya Square, and this is a photo from one, a protester with a banned flag. There were over 10,000 folks that rallied at this square, many of them staying in the evening through the next day over a period of weeks until the regime finally got fed up, which resulted in a crackdown of the protesters and imprisonment of, and I think there were about 685 on this list, 700 political activists who were jailed for protesting a failed election and rallying for the cause of freedom and democracy and the rule of law. In the square slogans that stated "Long Live Belarus"; "Freedom"; the announcement of one of the Presidential candidate's names, Milinkevich, those were the cries of people who want freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

This was the regime's response. One of those jailed who is still in jail is opposition leader Alexander Kozulin. Kozulin was also a Presidential candidate. He remains in jail today and imprisoned unlawfully and will undoubtedly remain for the immediate future. On March 30 Dr. Kozulin was formally charged with two counts of hooliganism under part 2, article 339 of the Criminal Code. Now, hooliganism is taking part in a democratic rally and publicly speaking his concerns on freedom and democracy and the rule of law. Actions which disturbed the public peace, so the regime says, and active participation in them under article 342 is against the regime's laws. These crimes carry a maximum sentence of 6 years. Dr. Kozulin has yet to be assigned a trial date and will remain in prison until the regime succumbs to international pressure and assigns him a trial date to prove his innocence.

Tomorrow, April 26, as was stated by another of my colleagues tonight, is the anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. Now, Chernobyl is in the Ukraine, but much of the fallout area is in the country of Belarus, and the prodemocratic organizations and movements and the political activists will be rallying again for freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

The President/dictator of Belarus is an individual named Lukashenko, and since the election is now over and many of the international media has left the country, he may feel that it is within his power to continue to be ruthless and destroy and suppress the freedom movement in Belarus. My time tonight is to just talk to him, the folks in the country of Belarus and the people who yearn for freedom and democracy that the world will be watching the events of tomorrow's rally.

I hope that my colleagues here on the floor will stand with me in support of freedom of Belarus during this time and will work with the Belarusian people to bring free and fair elections to their country. Countries that are democratic historically have peaceful relationships with their neighbors who are also democratic. It is incumbent upon this House that is the bastion of

freedom, democracy, and the rule of law to be of aid to those people who yearn to be free. That is what this Special Order is about tonight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STUPAK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LARRY NELSON

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the Special Order time of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a friend and a fellow Georgian Larry Nelson, who, after years of hard work and success, has been elected to the World Golf Hall of Fame this year.

Mr. Speaker, I want to call my colleagues' attention to this picture of Larry at my left. Look at that picture-perfect swing. I can only dream about that.

Larry Nelson, indeed, is an inspired golfer and an inspirational athlete. Throughout his successful 36-year career, Larry has risen to the top of his game, and he has remained there while racking up victory after victory. In the last 32 years on the PGA and the Champions tours, Larry has won 10 events, including 3 majors. His career is highlighted by his PGA championships in 1981, 1987, and his 1983 win at the United States Open. He is also a three-time member of the U.S. Ryder Cup team.

Larry's place among golf's greatest is well deserved. During the earlier part of his career in the 1980s, there were only three other golfers besides Larry who managed to win three major tournaments: Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson, and Seve Ballesteros.

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Larry Nelson undoubtedly belongs with these legends of golf.

We often hear of self-made men, and Larry is certainly one of them. Mr. Speaker, as a sergeant in the United States Army during the Vietnam conflict, golf was not even a blip on his